

Message

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Sent: 6/21/2018 6:54:46 PM
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Subject: FW: EPA PFAS Network

Related to ATSDR tox profiles...

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ORD Executive Lead for PFAS R&D

Office 919 541 3655 Cell 614 330 2226

From: Holsinger, Hannah
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 2:47 PM
Subject: EPA PFAS Network

Good Afternoon,

As an FYI the PFAS website has been updated to include statements developed in regards to the release of the ATSDR MRLs. The first is the joint EPA/ATSDR statement on the differences between the values. The second is what EPA has been providing on our actions. This information is now linked on our website under Tools and Resources:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

JOINT EPA AND ATSDR Q&A and SUMMARY STATEMENT

What are the differences between ATSDR's MRL and EPA's Health Advisory?

Federal agencies have a variety of tools that provide federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as well as health professionals and the public with information about how a chemical might affect a person's health. All of them can be used together to create a more complete picture of how to assess health risks and protect people from future exposures.

ATSDR's MRLs and EPA's Health Advisories (HAs) are two different tools that are used in different situations. MRLs are intended to be used to help public health professionals determine areas and populations potentially at risk for health effects from exposure to a particular chemical. An MRL is an estimate of the amount of a chemical a person can eat,

drink, or breathe each day without a detectable risk to health. MRLs are unique to each substance. These are used as screening levels by public health professionals.

ATSDR may work with EPA at a national or regional level to more fully examine these exposures. MRLs and HAs are presented in different units because MRLs are daily doses while HAs are concentrations. Mg/kg/day is a unit of daily dose, while ppt is a unit of concentration.

Drinking water HAs, on the other hand, provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. EPA uses reference doses (RfDs) to develop HAs. RfDs estimate a daily exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups, such as infants) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects *during a lifetime*. HAs are non-enforceable and provide technical guidance to states agencies and other public health officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing drinking water systems, with information on the health risks of chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents from harmful exposure.

Government Agencies are Working Together to Protect Public Health

The U.S. Government is working in a coordinated way to address PFAS contamination across the nation. In the past few years, researchers in state and federal agencies, in academia, and in industry have been working to develop new data to improve our understanding of the toxicity of these compounds in the environment and how often they might be found.

Different agencies play different roles in protecting public health, and the multiple tools and measures they develop are used for different purposes. It is important to note that the values that EPA and ATSDR develop are guidelines rather than mandates. All states have the authority to set their own limits for environmental contaminants and many states have already developed their own guidance values for PFAS.

Federal agencies have a variety of tools that provide other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, health professionals, and the public with information about how a chemical might impact a person's health. All of them might be used together to create a more complete picture of how to assess health risks and protect people from future exposures.

Thanks!
Hannah

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